LANGUAGE ON THE MAP: ON THE HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHIC DIFFUSION OF ENGLISH FAMILY NAMES

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Abstract. The English of the British Isles has already been put on the map in a number of national and regional atlases. In contrast, atlases of English family names are rather few in number and present only a very limited number of distributional maps. The most comprehensive atlas of English surnames that has appeared so far was produced by a team working at my Chair of English Linguistics and Medieval Studies at the University of Bamberg (see Barker *et al.,* 2007). The present study deals with English surnames derived from personal names, the only area excluded from Barker *et al.,* 2007. First the databases and the mapping procedures are sketched followed by a brief introduction to personal names developing into surnames. The family names presented here have been chosen either for their origin, formation or distribution to depict certain peculiarities and (ir)regularities.

INTRODUCTION

The study of names has a truly interdisciplinary character as it combines, above all, the genealogist's, human biologist's, historian's and linguist's interests.

In England the introduction of family names or surnames respectively was due to an enormous cultural change that followed the Norman Conquest in 1066. By about 1350, everyone in southern and Midland England had a hereditary family name. The process took about one hundred years longer in northern England, much longer in Scotland and several centuries longer in Wales.

Surnames can be divided into the following main categories: local surnames where locative and topographical surnames can be distinguished, surnames derived from personal names and those expressing other relationships, surnames of occupation, status or office, and nicknames. In the literature a uniform classification of English surnames does not exist.

DATABASES

The examples chosen for this study will deal with English surnames derived from personal names[1]. For this, surnames with a long history in England are

[1] This area has been excluded from Barker, Spoerlein, Vetter and Viereck (2007). For some of the problems encountered and of the research carried out earlier in English surnames cf. Barker *et al.* (2007) and Viereck (2005).

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needed. Therefore, diachronically oriented databases are of special importance, namely

1) The International Genealogical Index (IGI) for the periods 1538 to 1850 and The British Isles Vital Records Index (VRI) for the periods 1538 to 1906

The *IGI* is a compilation, consisting mainly of parish register records, published by the Family History Department of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, commonly known as Mormons[2]. The *VRI* is basically an adjusted version of the *IGI* on CD-ROM and includes approximately 12.3 million records. The *VRI* has two sets of CD-ROMs; one holds the records for birth and christenings, the other for marriages. Both have been searched and the data have then been combined with the program *LDS Companion.*

2) Decennial censuses

In Britain they have been held since the early 19th century. Of special value are the census enumerator's books of the *Census of 1881* provided on CD-ROM by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The census data are much more exact than those of the *IGI* but they are not flawless either. However, the flaws have been noticed by experts in the field of genealogy.

3)UK-Info Disk V9 2004

With regard to the present-day geography of surnames, a telephone directory was used, namely the *UK-Info Disk V9 2004*, a People-Finder published by iCD-Publishing, London, which covers the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland as well as Ireland. The *UK-Info Disk* combines over 44 million entries compiled from the 2002 and 2003 Electoral Rolls[3].

MAPPING PROCEDURES

Our maps represent the idea of dialectometry (cf. Viereck *et al.*, 2002), mapping the retrieved data on area fill maps, point maps or pie charts varying in size in order to display areas of higher versus lower concentration of the name and its variants. The maps generated with *GenMap UK* from the *IGI*/*VRI* data are predominantly point maps when depicting different time spans. All *UK-Info* maps have been created with the software *PCMap* and are accompanied by a table comprising a list of the absolute number of surnames per county.

[2] The great interest of the Mormons in genealogy can be attributed to their belief that families stay together in the other world. Therefore, members of this church search for their ancestors to prepare themselves for a "sealing of their families" that can only take place once all ancestors have been discovered.

[3] On weaknesses and strengths of these databases cf. Barker *et al.* (2007: 61ff).

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AN INTRODUCTION TO PERSONAL NAMES DEVELOPING INTO SURNAMES

No evidence of stable hereditary surnames derived from personal names (predominantly patronymics) exists in England before 1066. The Norman Conquest brought some influence, since by-names from personal names were known in France at that time. By the early twelfth century, surnames or by-names from personal names were beginning to become more frequent throughout England and Scotland. Most of those early personal names were formed without any prefix or suffix being added. The widely used personal name *Godwine*, for example, produced the surname or by-name *Godwin* or *Goodwin*. These names were formed by taking the personal name of the father and using it as a by-name.

Due to lack of information from that time, it is hard to follow the development of hereditary surnames, but some evidence from the thirteenth century gives proof for hereditary surnames among the medieval population. McKinley (1990) provides the example of an *Adam Dueman of Rochdale*, who had a by-name from the personal name of his father, *Dudeman*, an Old English name. Adam's sons inherited the name *Dudeman*, which developed into a hereditary name.

Many later and present surnames have their origins in Old English personal names, like *Al(l)ward, Brixey, Cobbold, Edrich* and *Seavers*. In the course of time some surnames have become very rare or extinct, which makes it hard to recognize those names as personal names. The same goes for names introduced in England from France (e.g., *Goddard, Hammond*) or Scandinavia (e.g., *Kettle* or *Thurkell*). This group of personal names without any prefix or suffix formed the basis from which the others mentioned below developed.

In the thirteenth century the need to distinguish individuals with identical names led to the development of shortened forms of personal names. If, for example, there were several men called *Richard* in a village, one could be called *Rick*, one *Dick*, one *Hick*, and so forth.

These shortened and pet forms could appear as family names with the suffixes *-s* (*Dicks, Dix*); *-son* (*Dickson, Dixon*); *-kin* (*Dickin*), partly with *-s* or *-son* (*Hopkins, Hobkinson*); *-cock* (*Willcock*), partly with *-s* or *-son* (*Wil[l]cocks[on]*) and with one of the French diminutive or pet suffixes of the types *-et, -ot, -on, -in, -al* (*Willet[t], Willot, Roblin, Roblett*), partly with *-s* or *-son* (*Hobbins, Robin[s][on], Dobbin[s][on]*). Of course, the mentioned suffixes *-s* and *-son* were also added to the full forms as in *Williams, Roberts* and *Williamson, Robertson.*

In contrast to the surnames dealt with below, the surnames in *-cock* or *-kin* were usually not connected with a particular region, although it is hard to find sufficient documentation of that time to verify this. *-kin* names are found already in the mid-twelfth century; *-cock* names are less common than *-kin* names and date one century later. Both types of names are most frequent in the lower classes. The earliest of the *-kin* names are names of Flemings.

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SURNAMES DERIVED FROM A PERSONAL NAME WITH THE SUFFIX -*SON*

Before the Norman Conquest there are cases of by-names in England formed from personal names with the addition of Old English *sunu* 'son'. They were not confined to any one region of England and did neither seem to have been numerous, nor did they develop into stable hereditary surnames. Besides, before 1066 there were some instances of men being identified as the son of some person by the use of Latin *filius.* They became quite common in all parts of England between 1100 and 1300 in the form of, for instance, *Johannes filius Edwardi* 'John son of Edward'.

Surnames formed with the addition of -*son* did not appear to have been originally hereditary. By about 1350 they had become a common type of name in most parts of northern England, and in many cases were hereditary by then. At first they were the names of free or unfree tenants, and hardly ever the names of landowners. The distribution of surnames with the suffix -*son* appears to draw a boundary running through the north Midlands, to the north of which they were numerous, to the south, surnames with -*s* were the common majority. It has been suggested that the frequency of names in -*son* in the North was due to Scandinavian influence in these regions, but the areas where surnames with -*son* were very common do not coincide well with the area of heavy Scandinavian settlement. Despite migrations after the surnames had become fixed and hereditary, surnames with -*son* remained mostly concentrated in the northern counties. Apart from Scandinavian influence, the frequency of this type of family name may also be due to the later development of hereditary surnames there.

Compared to other European languages, especially Scandinavian languages, it is surprising that there are no surnames ending in -*daughter*. These names did exist during the Middle Ages in the North of England and seem to have been fairly common in Lancashire and Yorkshire for women in the fourteenth century up to about 1650. They were, however, extremely rare in the rest of England and none have survived to the present day.

In some northern counties from the thirteenth century onwards examples can be found of men with two by-names in -*son*, such as *Thomas Jonson Amotson*. These did not only give information about the father's name (*John Amotessone*) but also about the grandfather (*Amot*). These rare cases provide useful information about family hereditary, but they went out of use by about 1500.

SURNAMES DERIVED FROM A PERSONAL NAME WITH THE SUFFIX -*S*

These surnames surfaced parallel to the surnames with –*son* and have the same meaning, as in, e.g., *Thomas Williames* 'Thomas son of William'. Yet they

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appeared mainly in different areas of England. From about 1270 they started to become more numerous and by about 1350 they were quite common in the southwest Midlands, Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire and Herefordshire. These names were given to small free tenants, bond tenants and less affluent members of the town population, all of these groups having been without hereditary surnames before 1270. In the Southeast and the North of England these names were quite scarce before 1500. As already remarked above, there was a boundary through northern England, with names in *–son* occurring in the north Midlands and the North and names in *-s* occurring in the southern and central parts of the Midlands and later in the whole South of England.

The suffix *-s* was widely adopted by Welshmen mainly in southern Wales at around the sixteenth century and migration spread these names across the Welsh border into the neighbouring English counties and the London area.

Many family names originally being without suffix gained a final *-s* or *-es* in the period of 1550 to 1650. Parish records prove cases of *Richard* becoming *Richards* or *Peter* becoming *Peters*. This phenomenon was, however, not limited to personal names; it can be found in every surname category such as local, occupational and nickname.

Surnames like *Johnsons* or *Robertsons* with the suffix *-son* followed by a possessive *-s* can be found in Gloucestershire and Herefordshire during the seventeenth century, but have always been scarce. They appear to be the result of migration, when names with *-son* came to a region where *-s* was common. As far as can be discovered, this was limited to the southwest Midlands.

Reaney and Wilson (1997) give the following possibilities for the suffix *-s*: as a genitive, as a possessive implying the person given this name was a servant of some kind, like *Ropers* being either the servant of the roper or of a man named *Roper*. *Beadles* may also mean 'servant at a beadle's house'. Also *Potters*, for instance, could be the potter's son. Reaney and Wilson (1997) also state that the *-s* may be a sign of the plural or of the French vocative case, but both are much rarer cases that the ones mentioned above.

SURNAMES DERIVED FROM A PERSONAL NAME WITH THE PREFIX *MAC-* OR *MC-*

Surnames with the prefix *Mac-* originated in Ireland, the Gaelic-speaking parts of Scotland and the Isle of Man. Only the surnames in Scotland are of interest here. *Mac-* (< Gaelic *mac, mic* 'son') was prefixed to the personal name of the father. The history of these surnames is not well documented, yet they first appeared in the Gaelic-speaking parts of Scotland. Norse settlements on the Orkney and Shetland Islands led to the introduction of Scandinavian personal names, which had some effect on the development of surnames in Scotland (see, e.g., *MacIver* < Gaelic *MacIomhair* 'son of Ivar' < Old Norse *Ivarr* or *MacKettrick*

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< Old Norse *Ketill*). There were a number of surnames with *Mac*- consisting of Gaelic or English occupational names that originated as late as the sixteenth century (e.g., *MacIntyre* 'son of the carpenter' or *MacTaggart* 'son of the priest'). When Gaelic names migrated to England, they were sometimes altered, their Gaelic name being anglicised, i.e., replaced by an English word that bore a vague resemblance in sound (e.g., *MacAmbrose* 'son of Ambrose' became *Maccambridge, MacFetridge* became *MacFrederick).*

In some cases, when Gaelic-speaking people migrated to Scots-speaking areas or to England, their Gaelic names were translated into the English forms of their surnames. Thus, *MacDonald* became *Donaldson*, *MacIain* became *Johnson* and so forth. In some Gaelic names, the first two letters of *Mac*- were discarded, thus leaving names beginning with *C* or *K*. So, for example, *MacOwen* became *Keown* or *Cowan* 'son of Ewen'.

Most of the surnames in the Gaelic-speaking parts of Scotland seem for centuries to have been those of clans rather than individuals or families. It was customary for the inhabitants of a district to adopt the clan name of their chief.

Gaelic surnames were sparse in England and Wales for any period before about 1800. From the nineteenth century onwards they have become really common in most English and Welsh areas. Present-day telephone directories show a wide-spread distribution of Gaelic names throughout Britain, even in such southern areas as Brighton and Bournemouth.

SURNAMES DERIVED FROM A PERSONAL NAME WITH THE ORIGINAL PREFIX *AP*- OR *AB*-, NOW OFTEN BEGINNING WITH *P*- OR *B*-

Hereditary surnames in Wales are a post-sixteenth century development. The normal type of Welsh name before that time was a patronymic: *Madog ap Jevan ap Jor-weth,* which would translate into 'Madoc, son of Evan, son of Yorweth'. In the great majority of these names, the initial *A* of the prefix *Ap*- or *Ab*- (< Welsh *mab* 'son') of those Welsh by-names has been lost, leaving surnames beginning with *P* and *B*. The old forms *Ap*- and *Ab*- are now almost extinct. Surnames like *Bowen* (< *ab Owein*)*, Probert* (< *ap Robert*) or *Pritchard* (< *ap Richard*) migrated across the border of Wales into England and can now be found widely dispersed there. Other examples include the Welsh personal name *Rhys*, which became *Price, Prise, Pryce*, *Pryse* (< *ap Rhys*), but this might also sometimes be an English occupational name. The origins of some now well-known Welsh surnames are, however, not easily recognisable. *Prosser*, for example, is derived from *Roger, Prinold* and *Prinnalt* from *Reynold*, *Prandle* from *Randolph* – none of these three being originally Welsh. In some rare cases, personal names originating outside of Wales were taken as equivalents of Welsh ones. The rarely used English name *Lewis* or *Louis* was thought to be an equivalent of the Welsh *Llywelyn* or

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Llyewel(l)yn, a much-used personal name. This led to *Llywelyn* being replaced by *Lewis* in some cases and thus *Lewis* was considered a Welsh surname. In a similar way, *Edward* came to be considered an equivalent of the Welsh *Iorwerth*, so that *Iorwerth* was replaced by *Edward*.

As already stated, the suffix *-s* was considered to be typical of Welsh surnames at around the sixteenth century. The adoption of hereditary names was still not complete in Wales by the end of the eighteenth century.

SURNAMES DERIVED FROM A PERSONAL NAME WITH THE PREFIX *FITZ-*

The prefix *Fitz* is derived from Old French *fiz* 'son',[4] the equivalent of the Scottish *Mac-* and the Welsh *(A)p*. Surnames with *Fitz-* were mostly those of landholders and aristocrats in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries who at that time were French speaking. Occurrences of these names in other classes were usually by-names and not hereditary. The second element in these surnames with *Fitz* is usually a personal name introduced into England after 1066 (e.g., *FitzWalter, FitzGerald* or *FitzRobert*). Although these names are linguistically French, their evolution was confined to the British Isles; no such names developed in France. English royalty had for some time taken up the habit of giving their offspring, illegitimate or natural, surnames with *Fitz-* like, for instance, Charles II who named many of his children *Fitzroy* (< *fis le Rey*).

SOME RESULTS

The following surnames have been chosen either for their origin, formation or distribution to depict certain peculiarities and (ir)regularities. Variations of the names were taken from the surname dictionaries by Reaney and Wilson (1997) and Hanks and Hodges (1998). The data for the maps were extracted from the databases mentioned above and in the references.

JENKIN/JENKINS/JENKINSON

The surname *Jenkin* is a diminutive of *Jan, Jon, Jen* (*John*) with the addition of the suffix *-kin*. Reaney and Wilson (1997) list *Janekyn de sancto Iohanne* (from Oxfordshire) as the first bearer of this name. The year given is 1260, that is one hundred years later than the first attested *-kin* names that are said to have a Fleming origin.

[4] *Fitz* is the Anglo-French spelling of Old French *fiz*, earlier *fils* (< Latin *filius*). The form is due to the phonetic law in Old French that a palatalised *l* caused a succeeding *s* to become *ts* (written *z*) (*OED* 1989, *s.v.* 'Fitz').

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The variants of *Jenkin* are *Jenken, Jinkin* and *Junkin*, all of which were already out of use or very rare by 1881. The few entries in the surname atlas are mostly located in the Cornwall area. Patronymic variants include *Jenkins* and *Jenkinson*. Hanks and Hodges (1998) state that *Jenkins* is a common English name, but mainly associated with Wales, *Jenkin* is a typical Devon name and *Jenkinson* is rather more common in Lancashire and southern Yorkshire.

The available data present a more precise picture. In the sixteenth century *Jenkin* was attested only in the Midlands and in southern England, and only rarely at that. In the following centuries the family name became more numerous and spread out to more northern areas, even to Scotland (cf. Map 1.1 – 1.4). In the late nineteenth century *Jenkin* had 2,370 entries of which 1,552, the absolute maximum, were in Cornwall (see Maps 1.4 and 2).[5] In 2004 the entries in Cornwall are still the highest, but have nearly halved since 1881. This might be explained with the wider distribution of the name throughout England by migration of people from Cornwall to other counties (cf. Map 3).

*Jenkin*s is indeed a very common English surname, with 35,274 entries in 1881.The most numerous occurrence is in the southern parts of Wales (cf. the remarks above on the suffix *-s* in Welsh surnames), with a maximum of 8,976 in Glamorgan. The name has increased and spread further in 2004 with a total of 54,902 entries (cf. Map 4). Glamorgan, indeed southern Wales, still holds the maximum of occurrences. The second largest concentration is in Greater London, naturally the strongest migration target. London is indeed a special case. As it has acted as a magnet for migrants during all the centuries since surnames were formed, it is normal to find that many people there possess a surname that is otherwise concentrated elsewhere. The distribution of a name in and around London can often be disregarded, unless, of course, all the other examples of the surname are from those parts. Whereas in 1881 *Jenkins* was more or less limited to Wales and the bordering English counties, it has spread throughout most of England and Wales, even to Scotland during the twentieth century. As Map 4 shows, by far the highest frequencies of occurrence of *Jenkin*s are, as expected, south of the north Midlands.

Jenkinson had its maximum in Yorkshire and Lancashire in 1881 with altogether 2,652 entries and also occurred in the surrounding counties. Map 5.1-4 shows its development through the centuries up to the nineteenth century: *Jenkinson* had always been attested in the area from Lancashire to Yorkshire and from Staffordshire to Lincolnshire. It never appeared in Wales, Scotland or the Southwest of England, and hardly in the Southeast. Map 6 shows the present-day distribution of *Jenkinson.* Its distribution fits well into the overall distributional pattern of the surnames ending in *-son* (cf. Map 7).[6]

[5] Christian Maaßen kindly generated the maps. For the positions of the counties and their full names cf. the maps and lists in Viereck (2005: 156ff).

[6] It is particularly interesting that important traditional dialectal features of English show close correspondences with this type of patronymic and metronymic surname (cf. Wakelin 1983). For an equally close correspondence with blood group distributions cf. Viereck (1998).

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HOBB/HOBBS/HOBBINS

Hobb is derived from the medieval given name *Hobbe*, which was a pet form of *Rober*t, rhymed on *Rob.* Among the variants, *Hob, Hopp* and *Hobbes* were already extinct by 1881. The diminutive forms *Hobin* and *Hobbins* have prevailed to the present-day. The most frequent variant is *Hobbs*, which has become quite a common English surname.

The first bearers of the family name *Hobb* were attested in the Midlands and date in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. The 1881 data (Map 8) shows a concentration of the 187 entries in the Southwest, namely in Cornwall (31) and Devonshire (again 31 entries). Somerset and Hampshire also provide a number of entries. A small number of occurrences is located in the Midlands, in northern England, but also in Scotland (in Angus, Aberdeenshire and Argyllshire). *Hobb* featured only 47 hits in the 2004 UK-Info data, which shows that this surname is slowly coming out of use.

The variant *Hobbs*, however, is spread widely: Maps 9.1-4 display the distribution of *Hobbs* throughout the centuries. In the sixteenth century the name appeared in Wiltshire with only a few entries outside of it. In the seventeenth century the name spread to the surrounding counties to the East and the South. The surname did not appear north of Leicestershire and in East England. A century later the border is slowly transgressed with a few hits of *Hobbs* in Nottinghamshire and even as far north as Northumberland. Wiltshire has remained the county with the maximum of occurrences, but the area of Greater London is starting to grow in numbers. In the nineteenth century the progression to the North continued, with almost all counties in northern England and even southern Scotland featuring the name *Hobbs*, if only scarcely. The London area has become a second maximum next to Wiltshire. As was the case with *Jenkins* (cf. Map 4), the suffix *-s* also in *Hobbs* points to a predominance of occurrence south of the north Midlands, which is all the more noticeable the further back in time we go. As is only to be expected, some *Hobbs* families have moved further north more recently.

Hobbins, with 488 entries in 1881, had a high concentration in Warwickshire and to some degree in Lincolnshire and Hampshire. Map 10 shows the 2004 distribution of *Hobbins*, its maximum being still in Warwickshire, to be followed by the West Midland county and Hampshire. Overall, the surname *Hobbins* has spread throughout the larger part of England with 644 entries altogether.

Hobbin was very scarce in 1881 with only 27 entries, but was located in counties further north, like Lanarkshire, Durham and Lancashire. The same is true of *Hobin*, which, in 1881, had a maximum of 91 out of 183 entries in Lancashire and 17 in Perthshire. In conclusion it can be stated that the distributions of the diminutive forms are in full agreement with those of *Hobb* and *Hobbs*. This is also true of the frequencies of *Hobb* versus *Hobbs* and *Hobbins* versus *Hob(b)in.*

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McMICHAEL

The Scottish surname *McMichael* is an anglicised form of the Gaelic *MacMicheil* and thus a patronymic of the Gaelic form of the given name *Michael*. The variants given by Hanks and Hodges (1998), *McMicheal* and *McMichail*, are both very rare with less than ten entries each and therefore not suitable for further scrutiny.

The *VRI* shows *McMichael* occurring in the counties of Lanarkshire, Kirkcudbrightshire and Ayrshire from the eighteenth century onwards. Apart from a few exceptions, the surname was limited to Scotland. It has always been a rare family name. The 1881 Census lists only 446 entries altogether, with the majority being in the above-mentioned counties including Argyllshire, but also Lancashire and Worcestershire in England. In 2004, 535 entries of *McMichael* are found in the UK-Info data (cf. Map 11), with a very sparse diffusion throughout the whole of England. Next to the old maximum in Scotland (now including Dumfriesshire with only 47 entries as the new peak), London and Hampshire as well as Lancashire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester and Yorkshire show a relatively high number of entries. *McMichael* is a good example of a surname that spread from the Southwest of Scotland to other areas of Scotland and then to England and can now be found, if only rarely, in most English counties, except in most parts of Wales. *McMichael* was apparently not a clan name, but developed as a normal surname.

BEVAN/BEVANS

Bevan is a Welsh personal name from *Evan*, fused with the patronymic prefix *Ab-* or *Ap-*. The initial *A* was dropped and the *b* merged with the personal name to become *Bevan* 'son of Evan'. Variants are *Bevans, Bevens* and *Beevens*, bearing the genitive *-s*, *Beven, Beavan, Beaven* and *Beavon*. Reaney and Wilson (1997) list the following first bearers of the name: *Edenevet ap Ieuan* (1287), *Howel ap Evan* (c.1300) and *Thomas Bevans* (1680).

The 1881 Census provides a total of 7,331 entries for *Bevan*. The surname had its strongest concentration in Mid- and South Glamorgan (2,023 entries) and the surrounding counties (cf. Map 12). The map also shows a strong concentration of the surname in Lancashire and Gloucestershire, stronger than in the other English counties along the Welsh border. Apparently the industrial activities there needed many workers. Naturally, the London area shows a high concentration of *Bevan* – as outlined earlier, the London area is a special case –, but most English counties with the exception of Norfolk, Humberside and parts of Cumbria show some entries, confirming the wide distribution of Welsh surnames throughout England.

The UK-Info map (Map 13) shows that not much has changed in the distribution of the surname. The total number of entries, however, has nearly doubled to 14,331. Mid Glamorgan still leads with 1,825 entries over Greater

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London (907) and Gloucestershire (881). Curiously, *Bevan* has generally thinned out in the northern counties of England and in Scotland.

Compared with *Bevan*, the variant with the suffix *-s* is very rare and is, moreover, decreasing from the late nineteenth century to the early twenty-first century. The 1881 Census gives the centre of concentration of *Bevans* to be southwest Wales, namely Pembrokeshire (Map 14) with 190 entries of a total of 451 in Britain, thus proving the assumption that the surnames with final *-s* were typical of southern Wales. The second strongest concentration is Leicestershire with 66 entries. There are nearly no occurrences north of Durham. The four maps generated with the data of the *VRI* supply very few data about the surname *Bevan*s in Wales, but support the fact that the name did not occur north of Durham. Surprisingly, only 391 entries can be found in the 2004 UK-Info (Map 15), with a peak concentration again in west Wales. Second in frequency is still Leicestershire, to be followed closely by neighbouring Staffordshire. This shows again how stable family names have been over the centuries. *Bevans* has now also a higher occurrence in the London area, which is a result to be expected.

Surprisingly, neither *Bevan* nor *Bevans* seem to have been common in any part of north Wales at any time in history.

The final family name to be dealt with is

FITZHUGH

The surname *Fitzhugh* is composed of the prefix *Fitz*, taken from Old French *fiz*, meaning 'son', and the personal name *Hugh*. In colloquial speech the prefix was liable to various forms of assimilation to the following consonant, thus giving *Fithye*, which – together with *Fitzhugues* – was nearly extinct by 1881, *Fitchew, Fitchie* and *Fithie*.

In 1881, the surname *Fitzhugh* was concentrated almost completely in Northamptonshire (with 213 of altogether 326 entries). A small number of entries (28) was located in Lancashire, where at that time the variant *Fitchie* was dominant (30 out of 47 entries), but in much smaller total numbers. *Fitchie* was also found in Scottish Angus, together with the variant *Fithie*, which with only 15 occurrences was entirely limited to Angus. The variant *Fitchew*, being quite rare, was spread thinly across the counties bordering on Wales as well as in Surrey and Sussex (cf. Map 16a and b).

The *VRI* produced too few hits to be presented here in detail. In 2004, *Fitzhugh* had a total of 495 entries in Britain and still had its peak concentration in Northamptonshire (cf. Map 17). *Fitchie* increased to 144 entries in 2004, of which over a third (52) are still found in Lancashire (cf. Map 18). A new, but quite low concentration had come up in the extreme Southeast of England and the presence of this family name in Angus remained constant.

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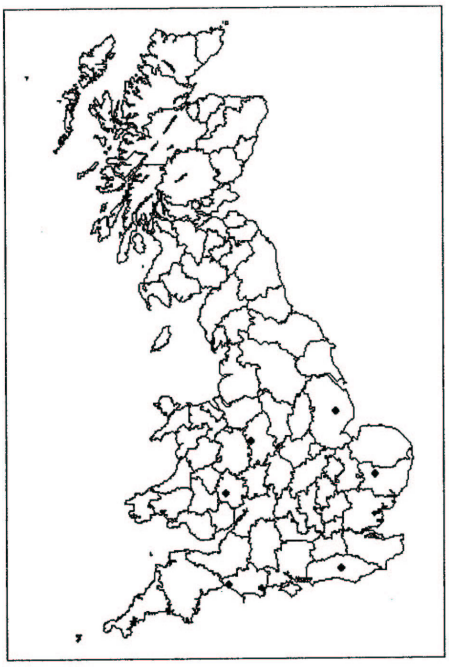
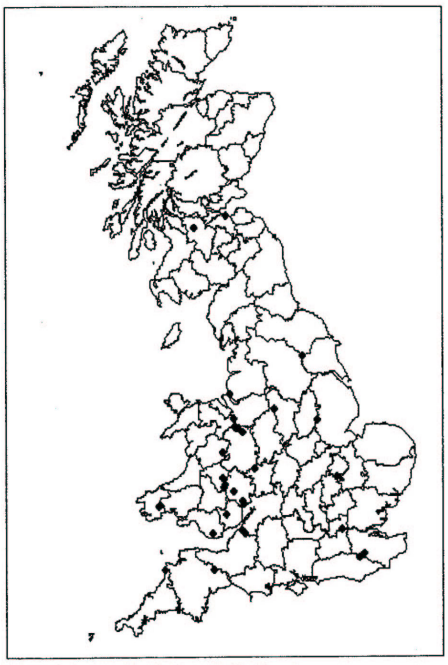
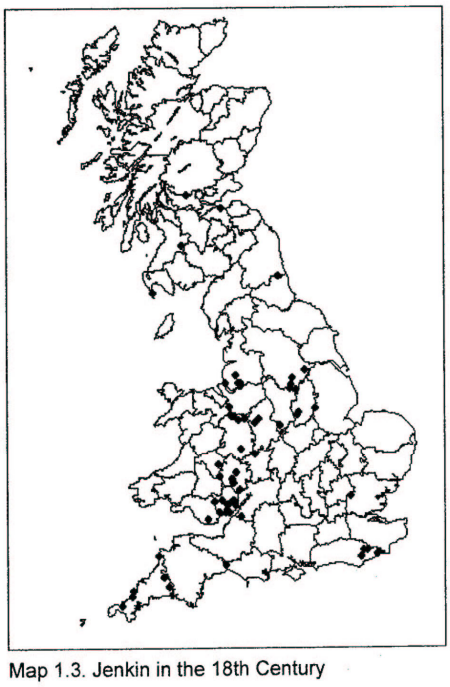


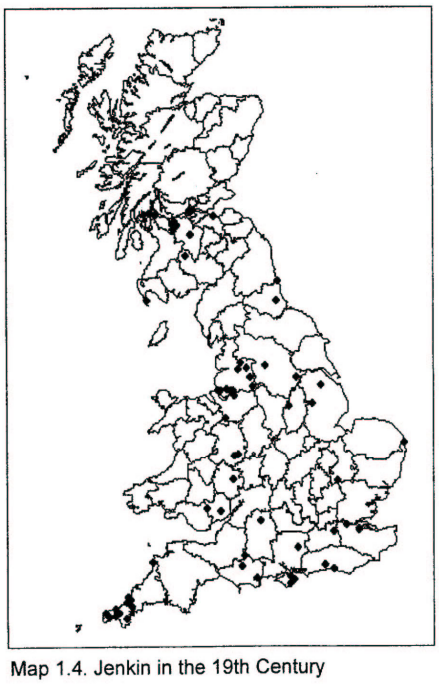
Map 1.1. Jenkin in the 16th Century



Map 1.2. Jenkin in the 17th Century



Map 1.3. Jenkin in the 18th Century



Map 1.4. Jenkin in the 19th Century

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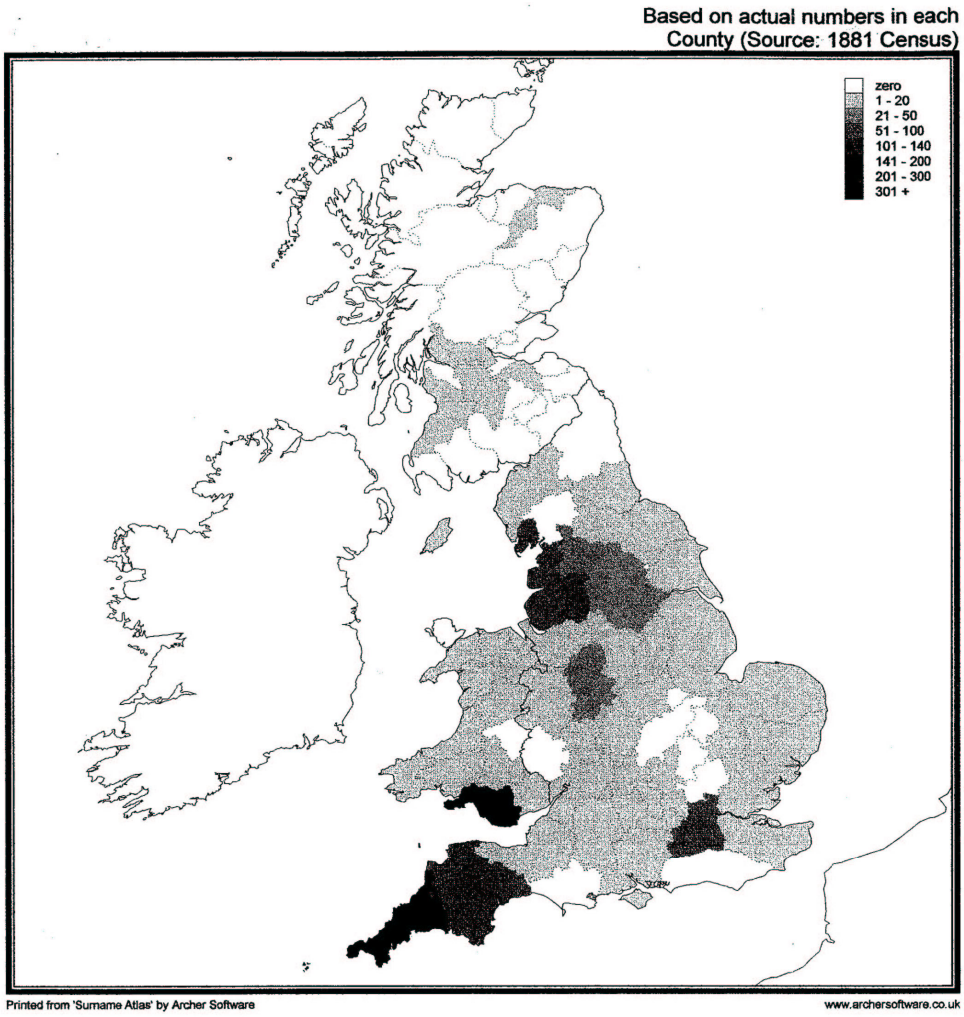

Map 2. Surname Atlas 1881: Distribution of *Jenkin* (2370 entries)

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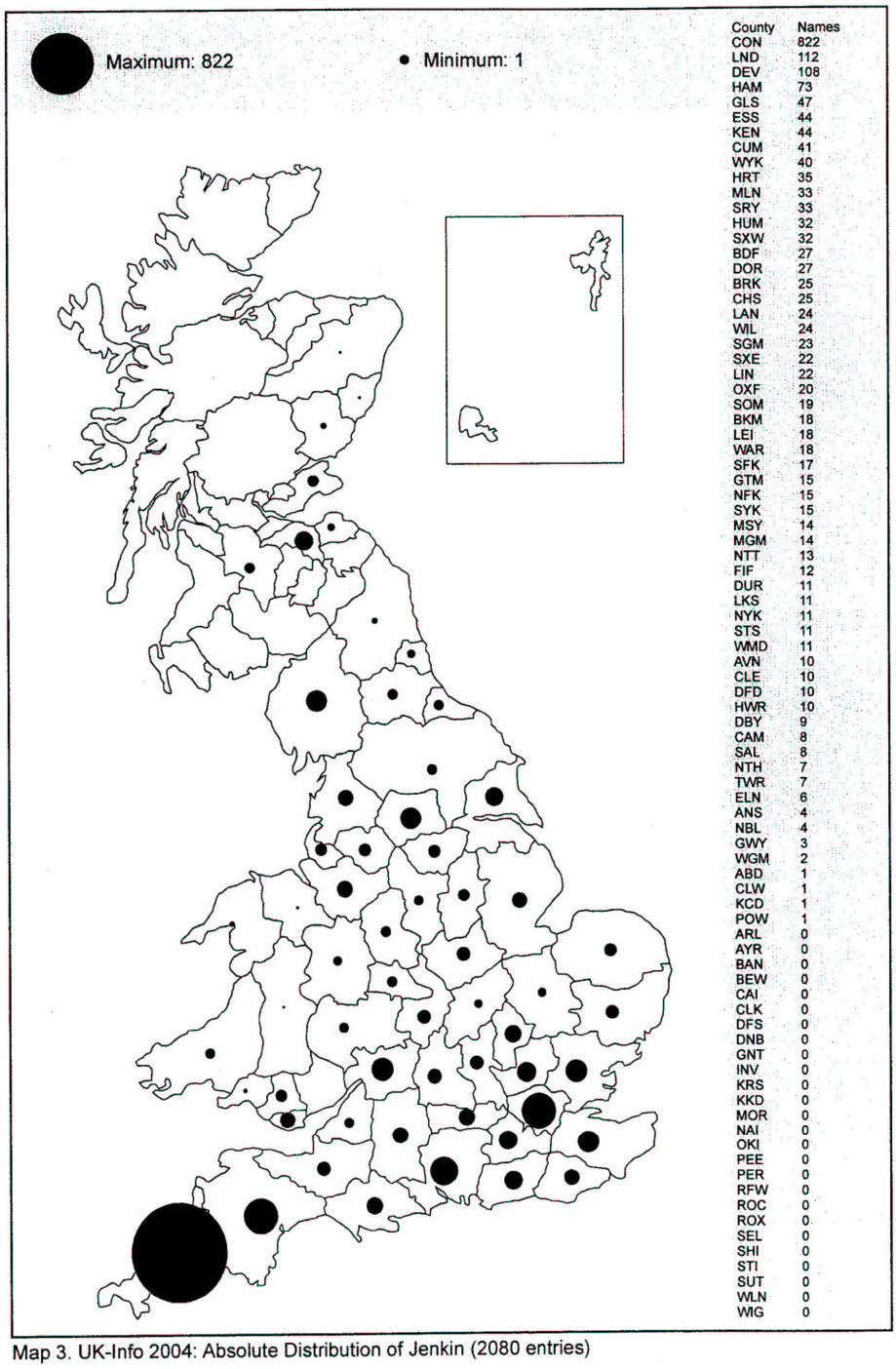

Map 3. UK-Info 2004: Absolute Distribution of Jenkin (2080 entries)

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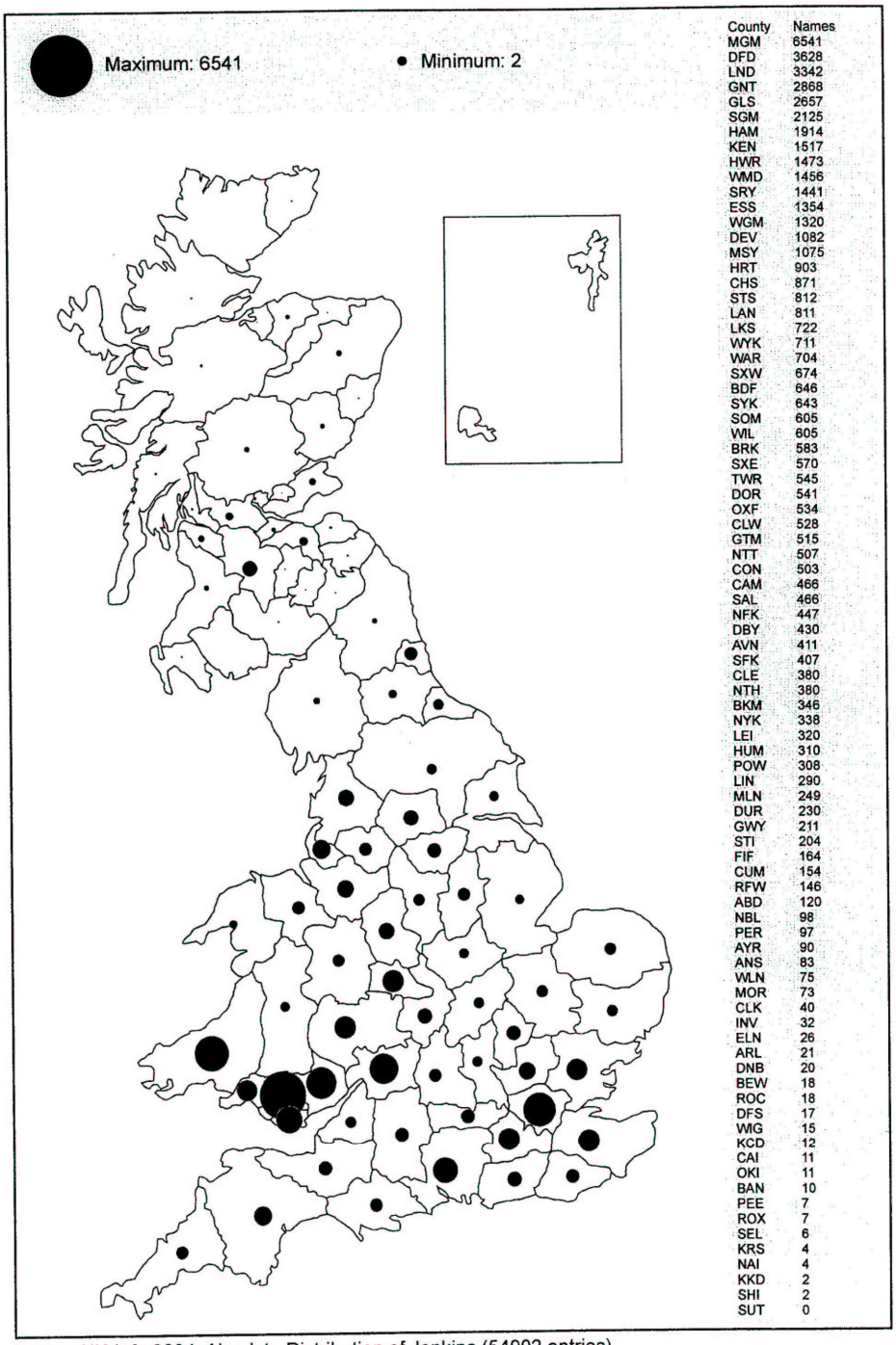

Map 4. UK-Info 2004: Absolute Distribution of Jenkins (54902 entries)

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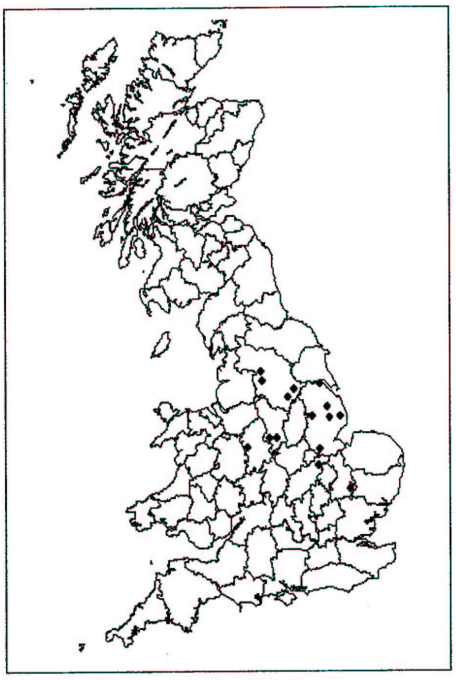
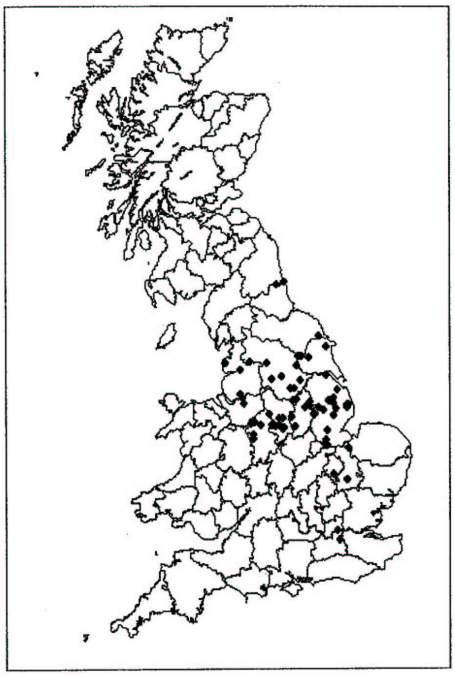
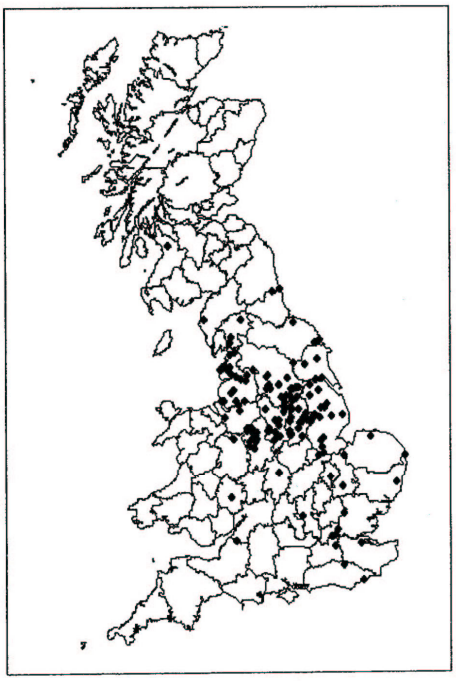


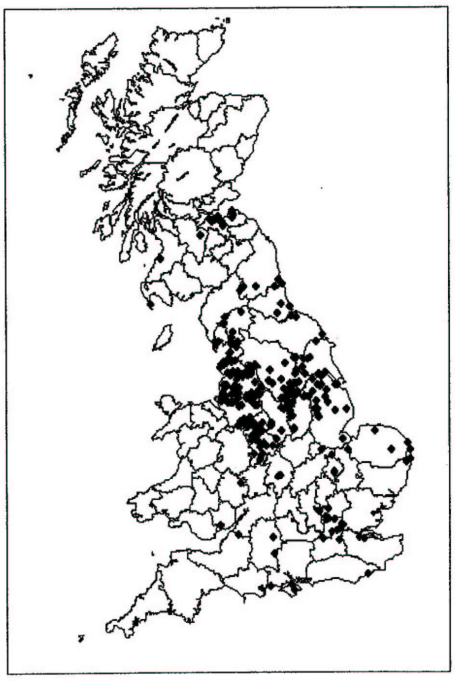
Map 5.1. Jenkinson in the 16th Century



Map 5.2. Jenkinson in the 17th Century



Map 5.3. Jenkinson in the 18th Century



Map 5.4. Jenkinson in the 19th Century

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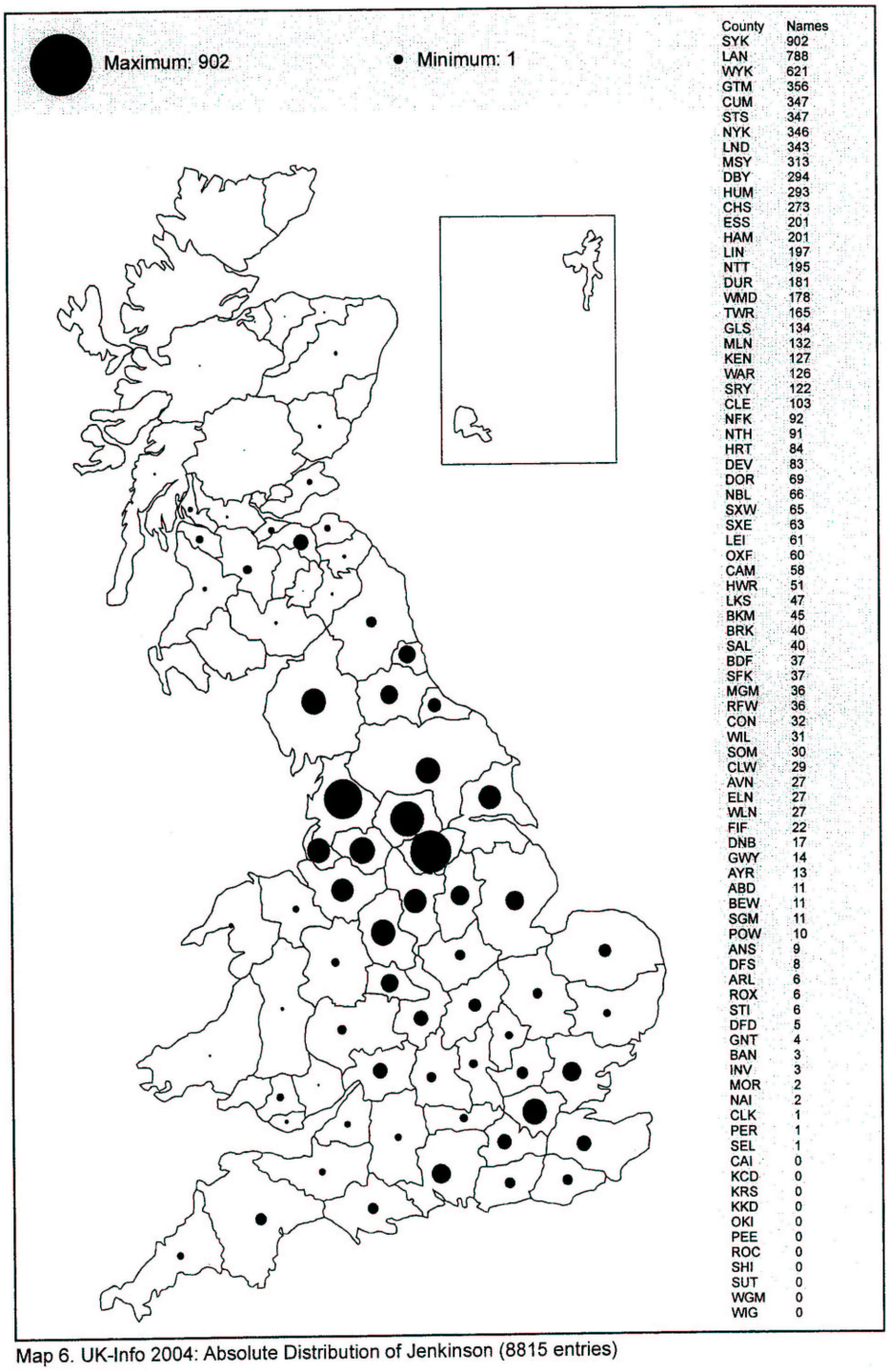

Map 6. UK-Info 2004: Absolute Distribution of Jenkinson (8815 entries)

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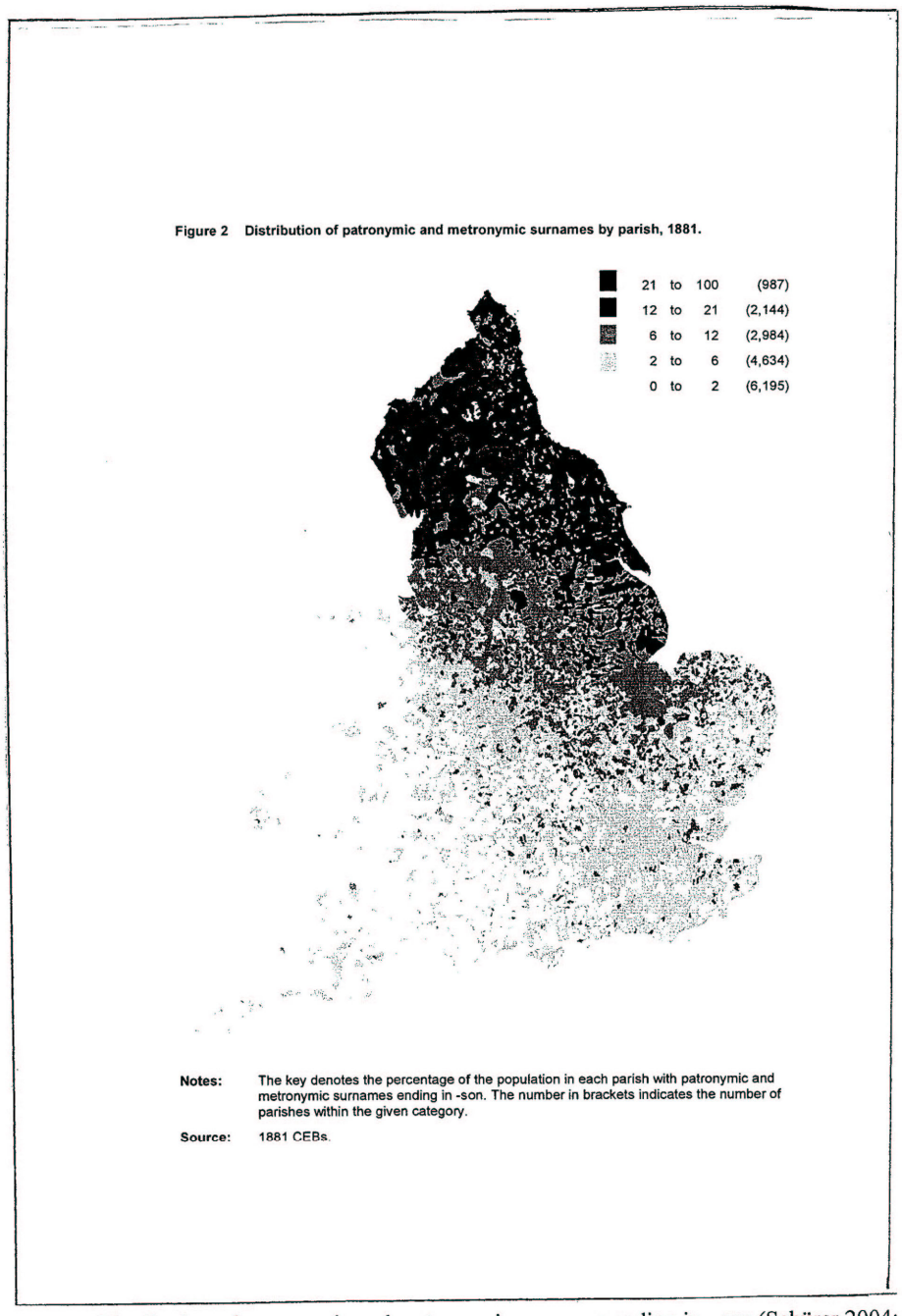

Map 7. Distribution of patronymic and metronymic surnames ending in *–son* (Schürer 2004: 73)

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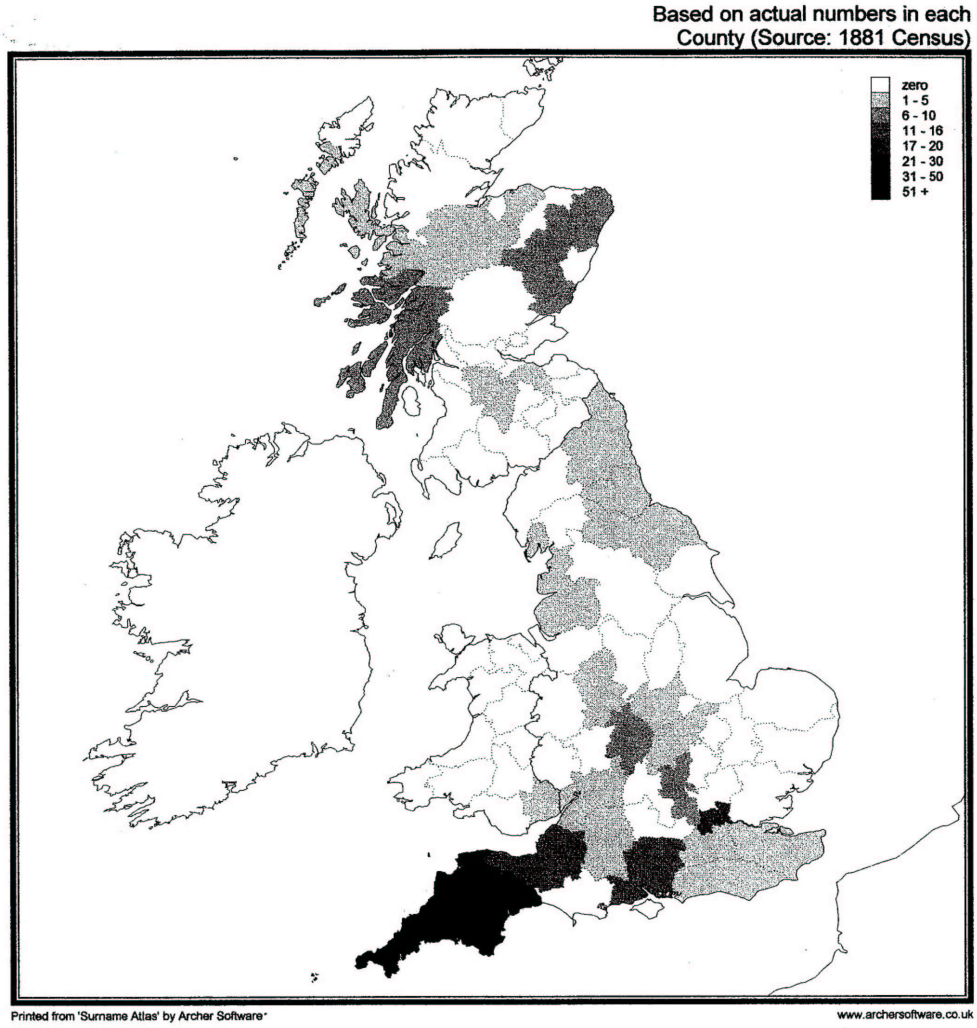

Map 8 . Surname Atlas 1881: Distribution of *Hobb* (187 entries)

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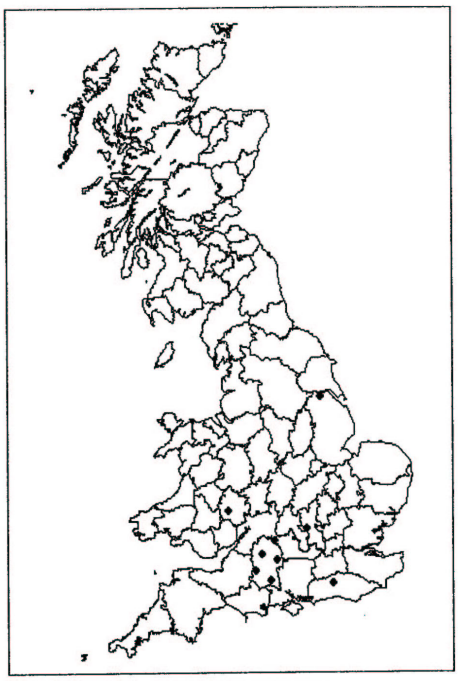
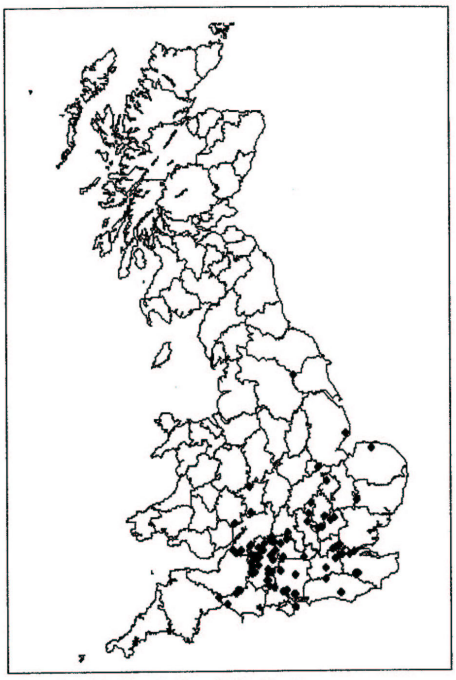
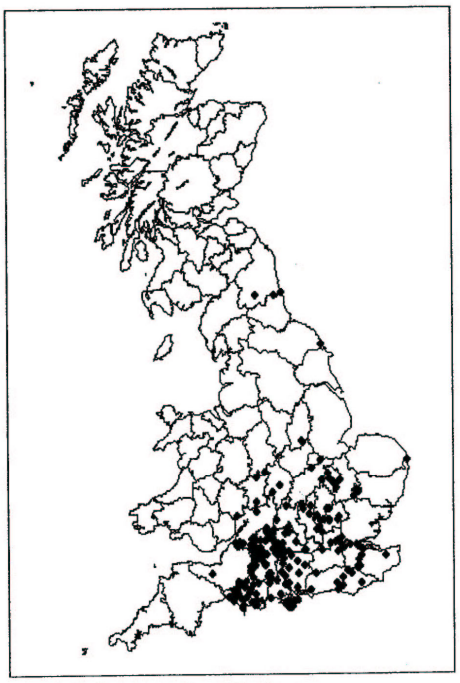


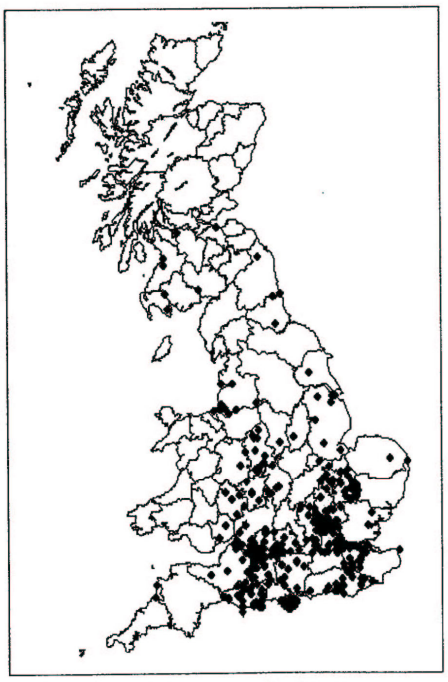
Map 9.1. Hobbs in the 16th Century



Map 9.2. Hobbs in the 17th Century



Map 9.3. Hobbs in the 18th Century



Map 9.4. Hobbs in the 19th Century

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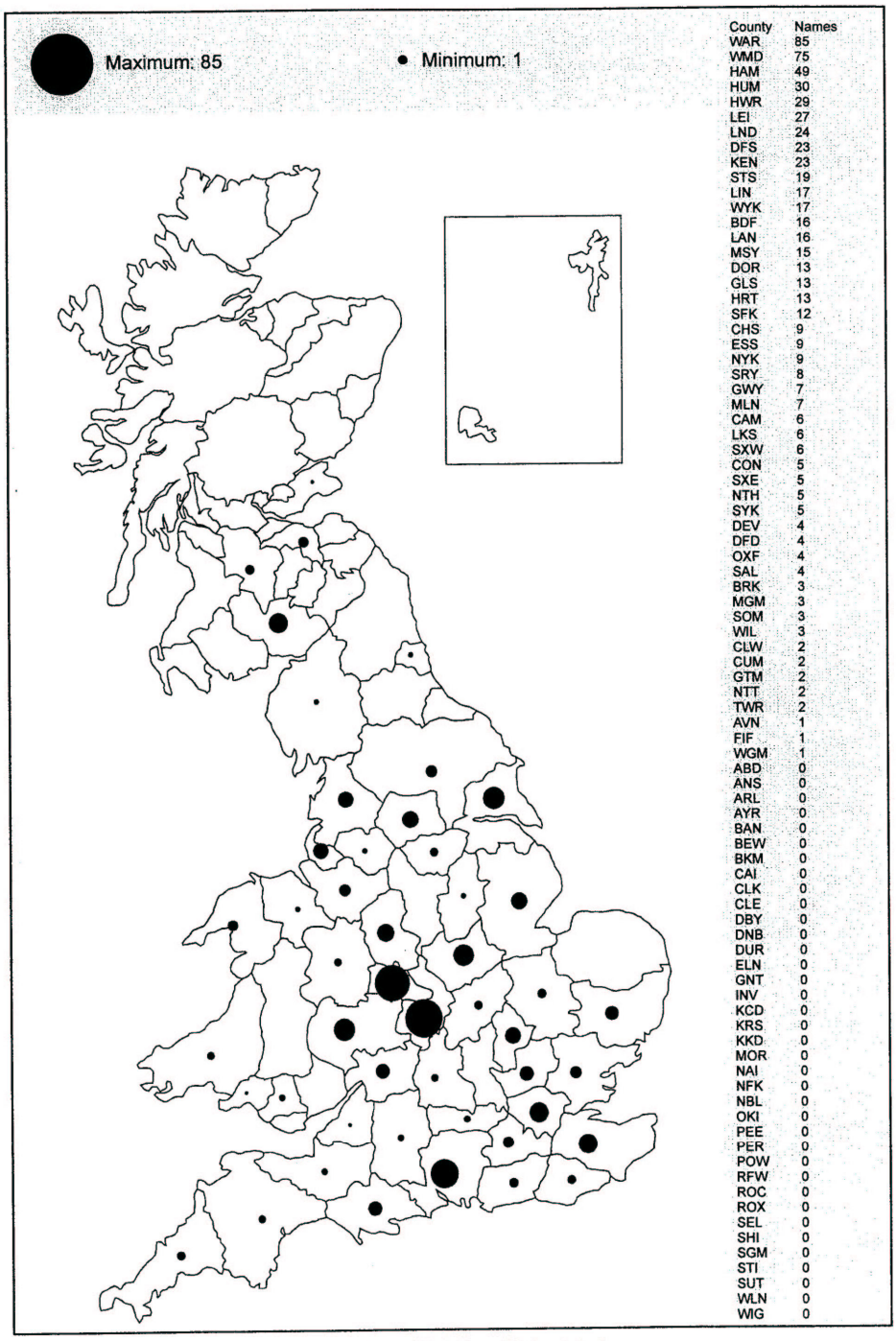

Map 10. UK-Info 2004: Absolute Distribution of Hobbins (644 entries)

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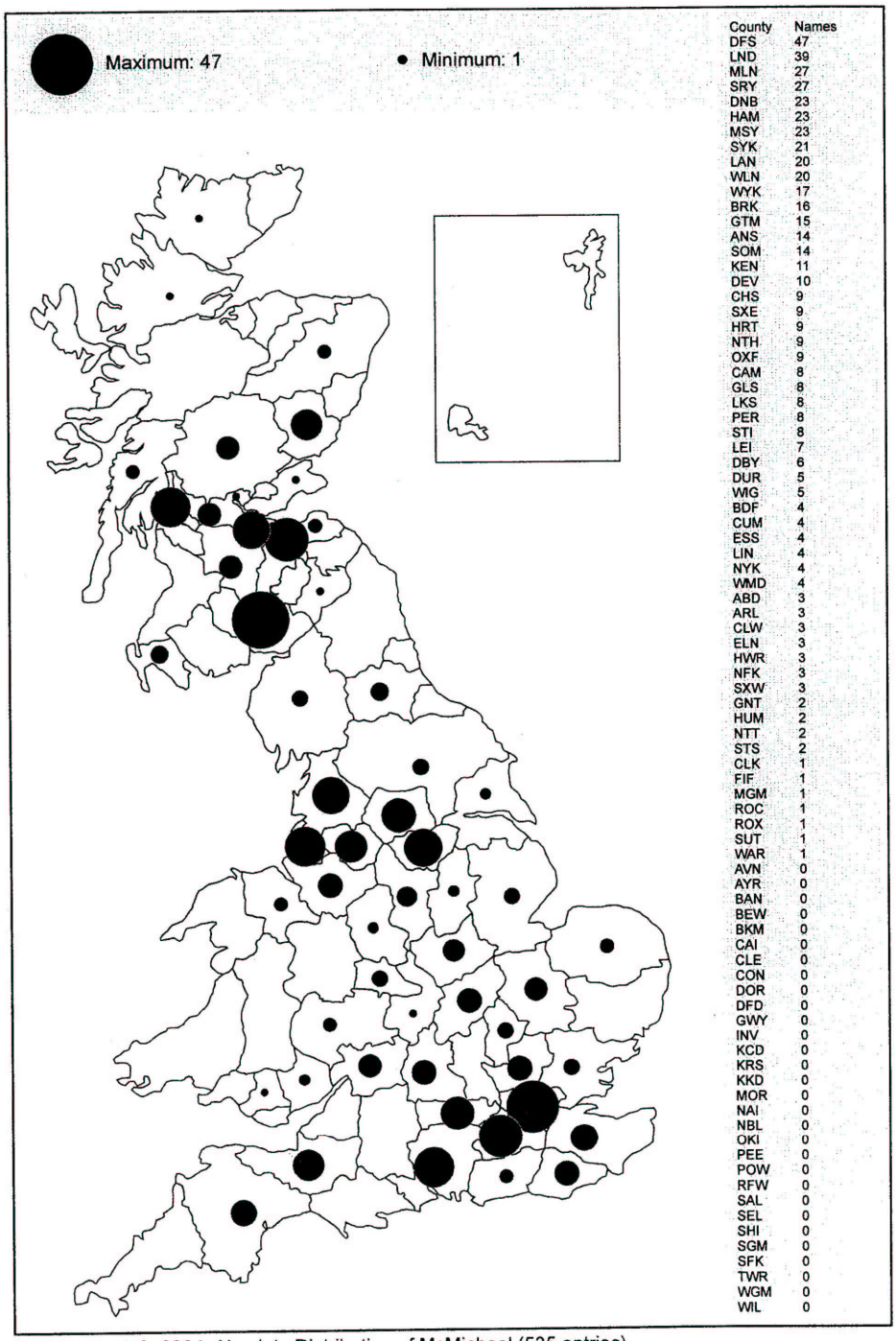

Map 11. UK-Info 2004: Absolute Distribution of McMichael (535 entries)

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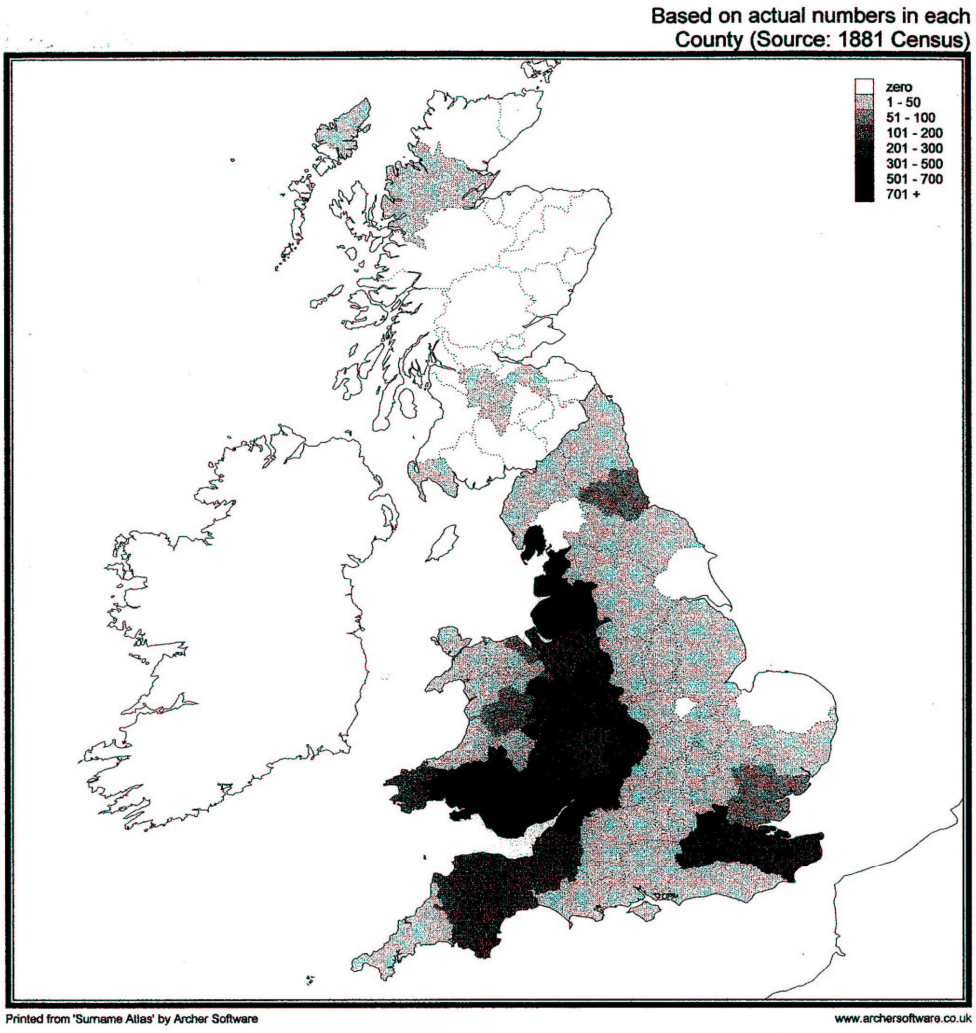

Map 12, Surname Atlas 1881: Distribution of *Bevan* (7331 entries)

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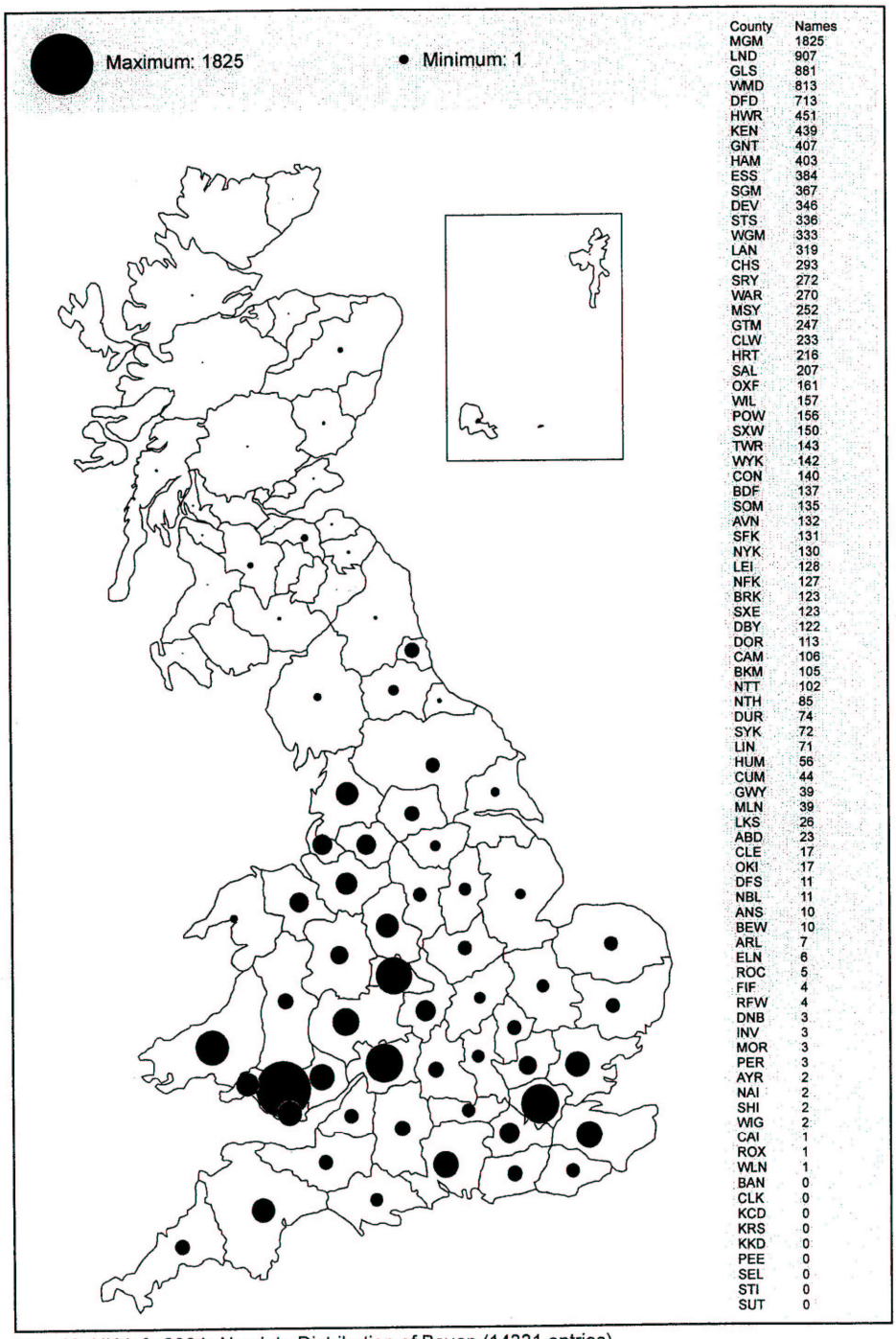

Map 13. UK-Info 2004: Absolute Distribution of Bevan (14331 entries)

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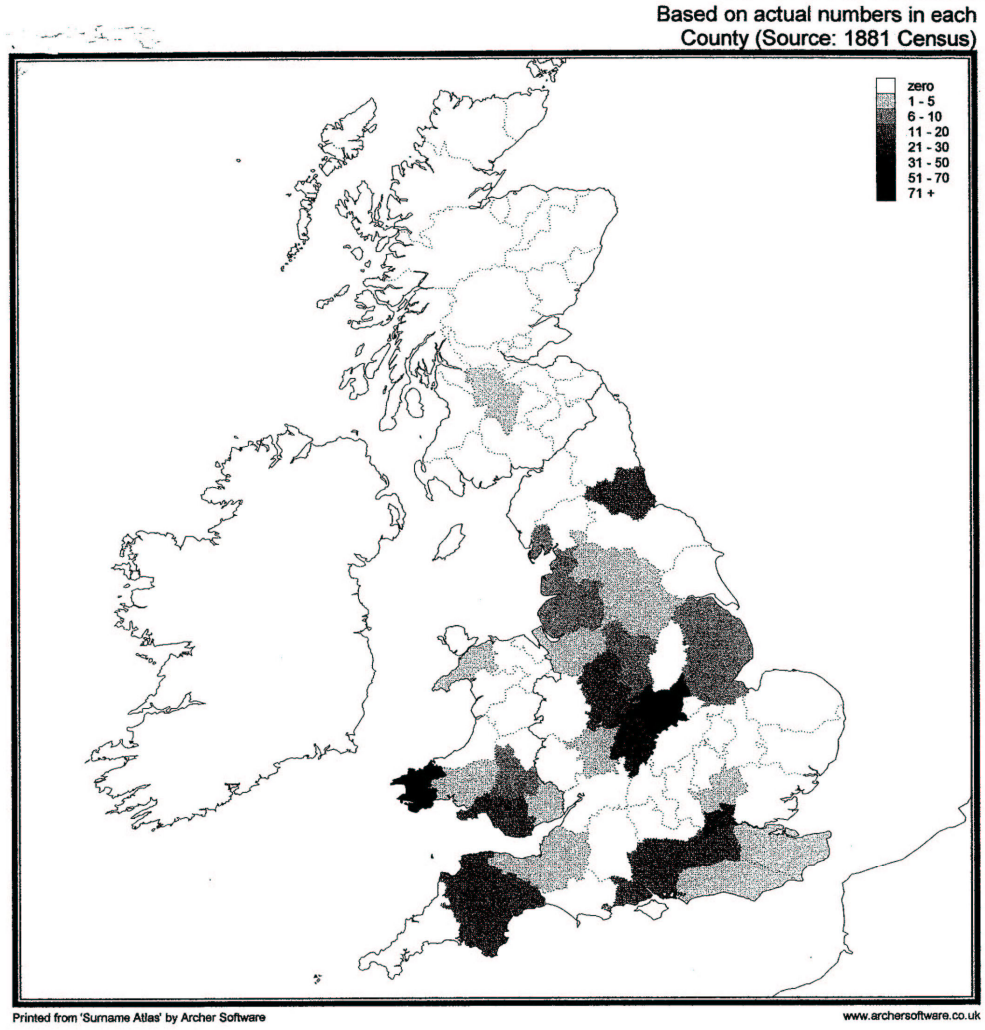

Map 14. Surname Atlas 1881: Distribution of *Bevans* (451 entries)

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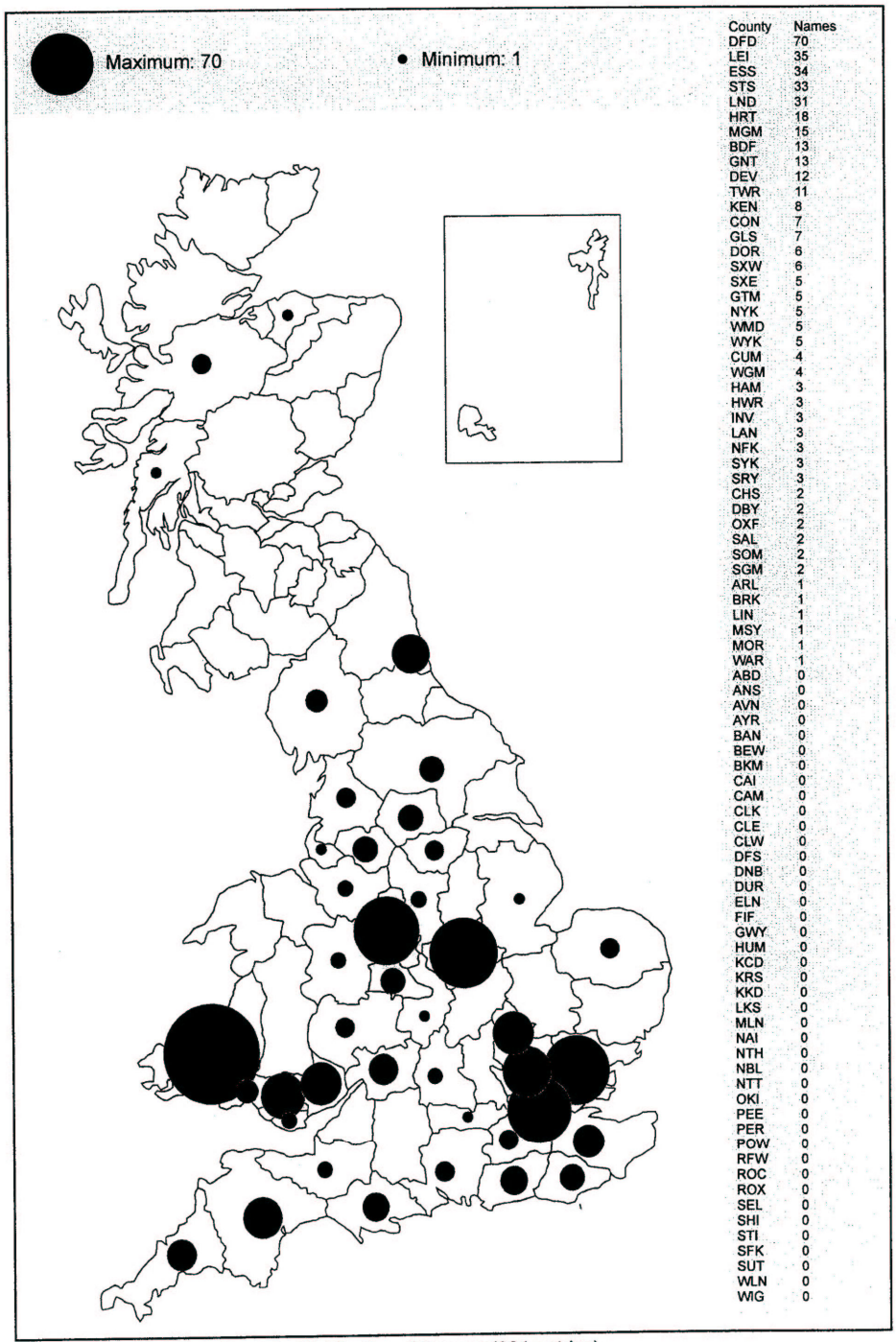

Map 15. UK-Info 2004: Absolute Distribution of Bevans (391 entries)

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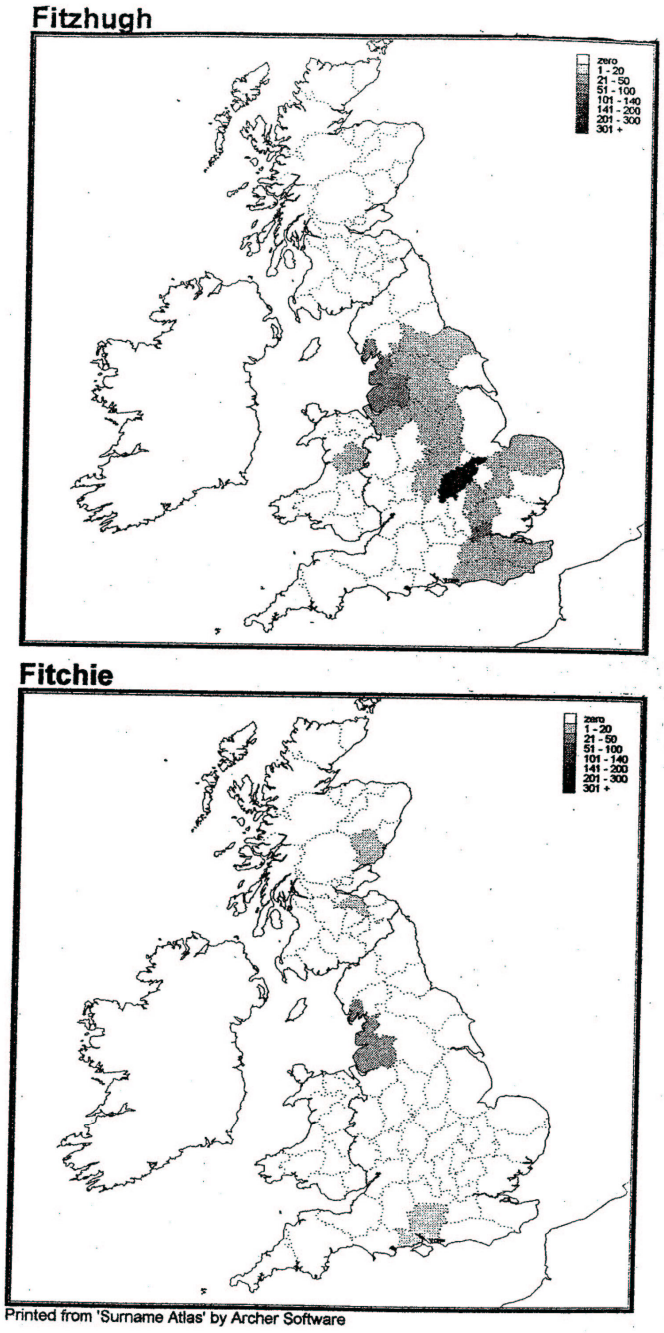

Map 16a. Surname Atlas 1881: Distribution of *Fitzhugh* (326 entries) and *Fitchie* (47 entries)

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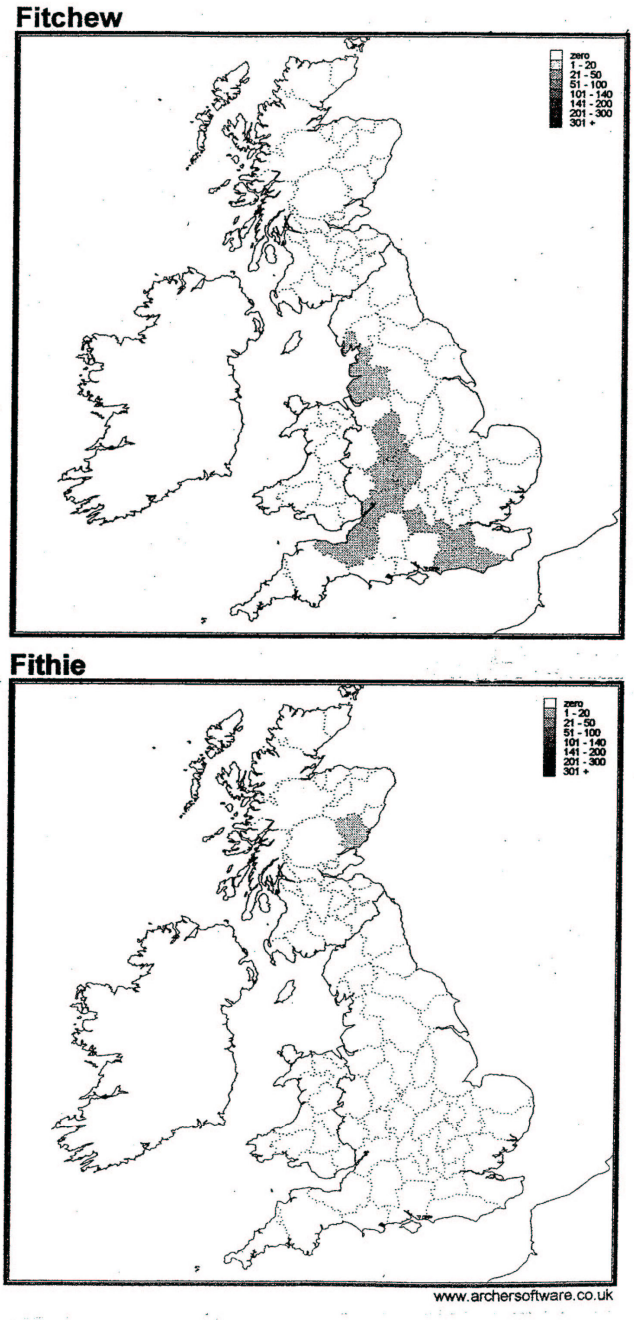

Map 16b. Surname Atlas 1881: Distribution of *Fitchew* (44 entries) and *Fithie* (15 entries)

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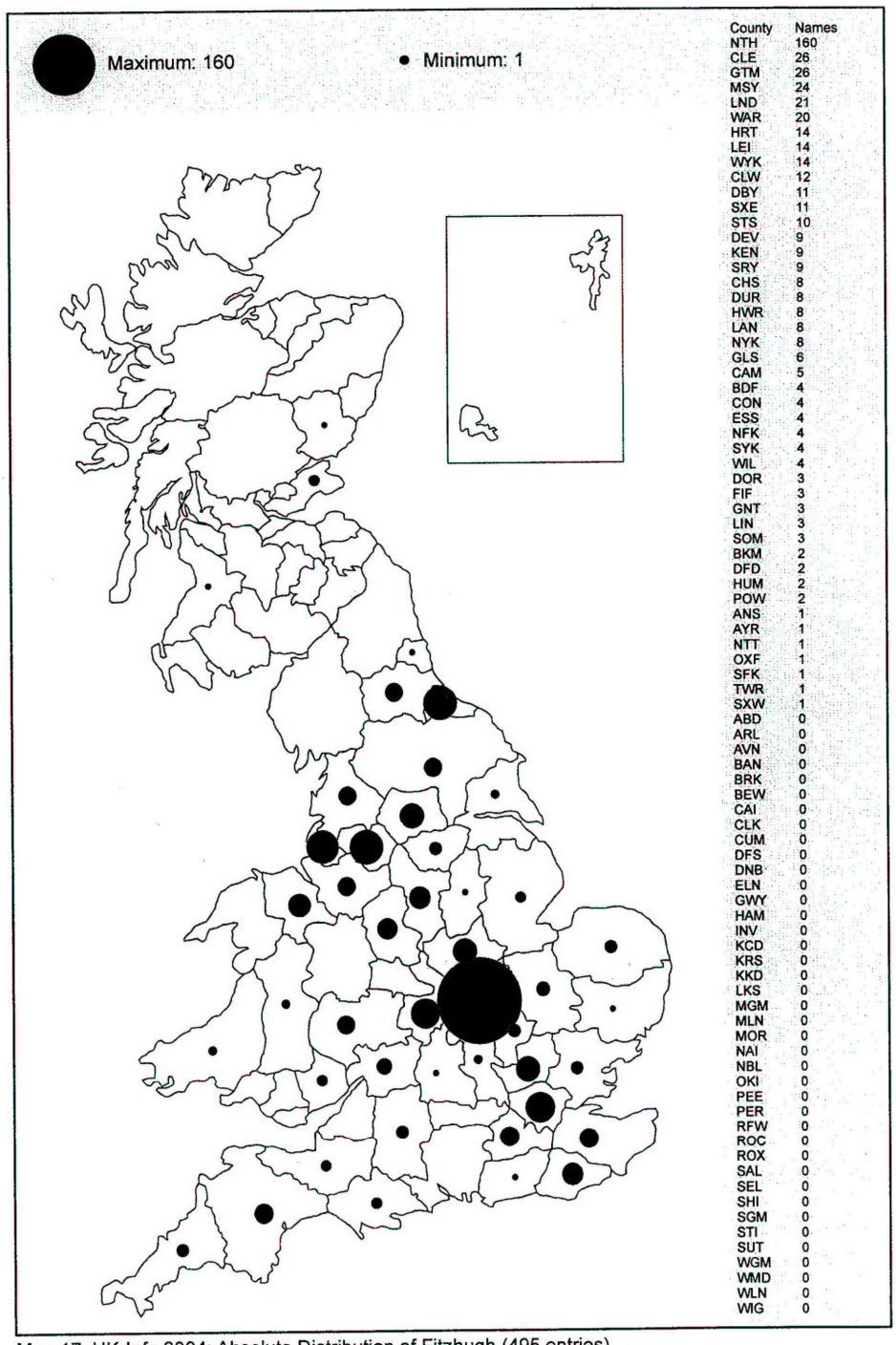

Map 17. UK-Info 2004: Absolute Distribution of Fitzhugh (495 entries)

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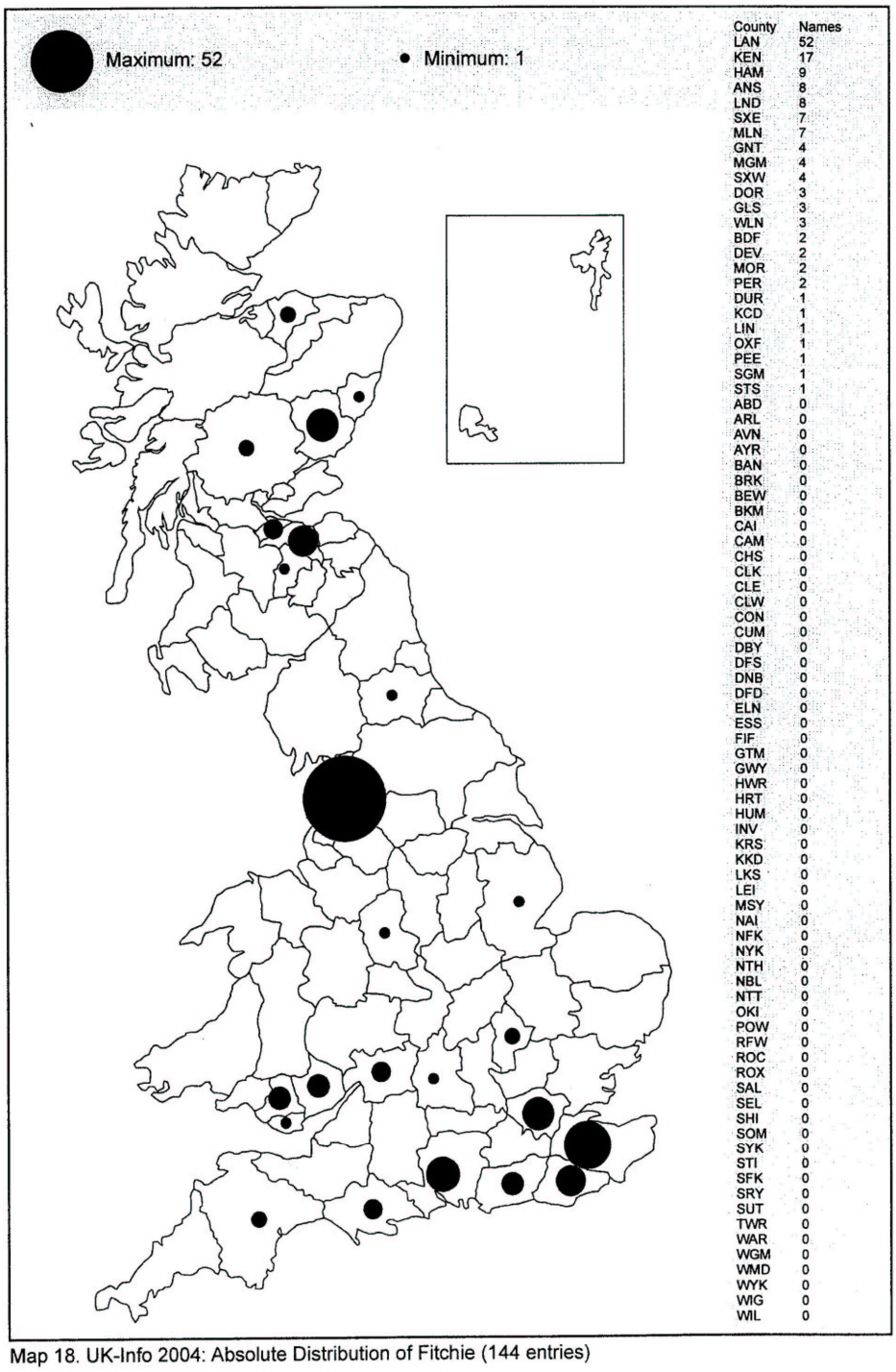

Map 18. UK-Info 2004: Absolute Distribution of Fitchie (144 entries)

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The geographical diffusion of *Fitzhugh* and its variants differs from the names mentioned earlier. Whereas most of the other names originated in a specific region depending on their linguistic characteristics, such as the formations with *-son*, *-s, Mc-* and *(A)b-*, the names with the French prefix show no such geographical concentration. Such names were first of all symbols of class. The Normans coming to England were rather few in number and spread all over the British Isles (cf. Viereck *et al.,* 2002: 61–64). Irrespective of their origins, however, all the names dealt with in this study exhibit a remarkable geographic stability over the centuries.

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